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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

DATE:

INFO. November 1944-

September 1947

DIST. 30 December 1947

SUBJECT Hungarian State Defense Department
(Political Police)The Development of the Hungarian Political Police (State Defense Department)
from November 1944 to September 1947

1. In November 1944, shortly before the provisional Hungarian Government came into being, the first post-war Hungarian Political Police unit was organized under Soviet supervision in Debrecen. This group, under the leadership of one VILSOI, was originally composed of a score of former slave-laborers, most of them Hungarian Jews. Jews were predominant because, although they were not necessarily Communists, it seemed obvious to the Soviet authorities that they were anti-fascists. The Debrecen Political Police unit was employed by the Soviets largely to maintain order and hunt down fascists. The group was substantially augmented by numerous Communists of long standing who, as Soviet forces neared Budapest, were liberated and sent to Debrecen. Among these early members was Andras SZEHENYI, the present head of all Hungarian police forces.
2. During the first days of December 1944 there arrived in Debrecen two groups which were to play an important role in the Political Police. The first group was made up of about ten Hungarian Communists who had been held in readiness in Moscow for the advent of the provisional Hungarian Government. This group included Dr. Andras TOMPE, present head of the Hungarian Police Academy in Budapest; Dr. Stefan EKES, present deputy to Andras SZEHENYI; Sandor HORVATH (alias of Sandor HAMBURGER), present head of Sub-Section I of the Political Police; and Jancs KOVACS, present deputy to Gabor PETER. The second group was composed largely of Hungarian Jews who had recently become Communists after the Soviets had freed them from slave-labor units. Members of the second group included: Andras VILLANYI, present deputy to Gabor PETER; Dr. Jozsef TIMAR, present head of Sub-Section VIII of the Political Police; Dr. Akos PAL, present deputy to TIMAR; and Miklos AKOS, now an official of Sub-Section VIII of the Political Police.
3. On 12 December 1944 the provisional government was formed in Debrecen, and the Political Police headed by TOMPE, was placed under the jurisdiction of the Minister of the Interior. Short Document No. 025

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independent Political Police unit with headquarters at Andrássy utca 60, Budapest, was organized under the leadership of Gabor PETER, an old-time Hungarian Communist who had been in hiding as a tailor in Budapest during the war. In February 1945 TOMPE and other leaders of the Debrecen group held with PETER a meeting which resulted in the merging of the two formations. Headquarters was fixed at Andrássy utca 60, Budapest, and Gabor PETER, because of the high esteem in which he was held by the Soviet authorities, was named head of the organization. TOMPE was confirmed as his deputy, a position which he held until the summer of 1945, when he was appointed head of the newly organized Provincial Political Police. In March 1945 the provisional government moved from Debrecen to Budapest.

4. Between February 1945 and September 1947 the development of the Hungarian Political Police was dominated by two significant trends. One was the successful campaign by the Communists to seize key positions within the organization and to force out their opponents. The second trend was a gradual change in the course of operations from emphasis on the so-called "offensive" phase (denazification of Nyilas and Volksbund sympathizers) to the "defensive" phase (organization and operation of a widespread informant network, on the MVD model, for the protection of the government).
5. From February 1945 until September 1947 the Political Police passed through three different organizational stages. comment: Appendix "A" outlines the Hungarian Police system as of August 1946 and September 1947.) The first stage, that of "offensive" operations, was in effect in Budapest from February through December 1945. During this period an independent system was established to extend Political Police control to the provinces. The second organizational stage in Budapest provided for equal emphasis on "offensive" and "defensive" operations, and lasted from January 1946 until August 1946 (see Appendix "B"). The third stage, which is, with the exception of one 25X1 "offensive" section, purely "defensive," has been in effect in Hungary since September 1946, when the Provincial and Budapest Political Police systems were merged under one headquarters commanded by Gabor PETER.

comment: Available information indicates numerous basic similarities, with regard to mission and operational procedure, between the Hungarian State Defense Department and its Soviet MVD and MGB counterparts, while the Hungarian Army Political Section is basically akin to the Soviet Kontra-Razvedka Smersh Administration. It is pointed out that, although Appendix "A" sketches in the relationship between Hungarian Civil and Political Police agencies, this report does not attempt to touch upon all Hungarian intelligence agencies.)

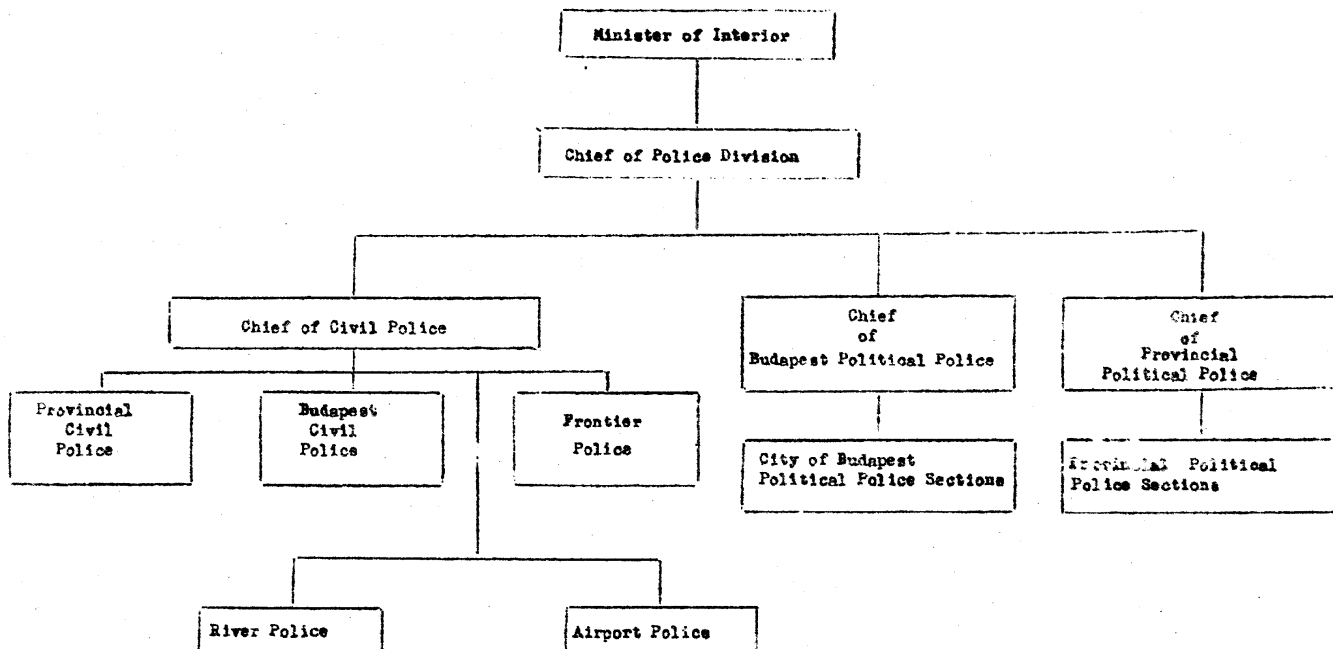
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APPENDIX "A"
HUNGARIAN POLICE SYSTEM AS OF AUGUST 1946



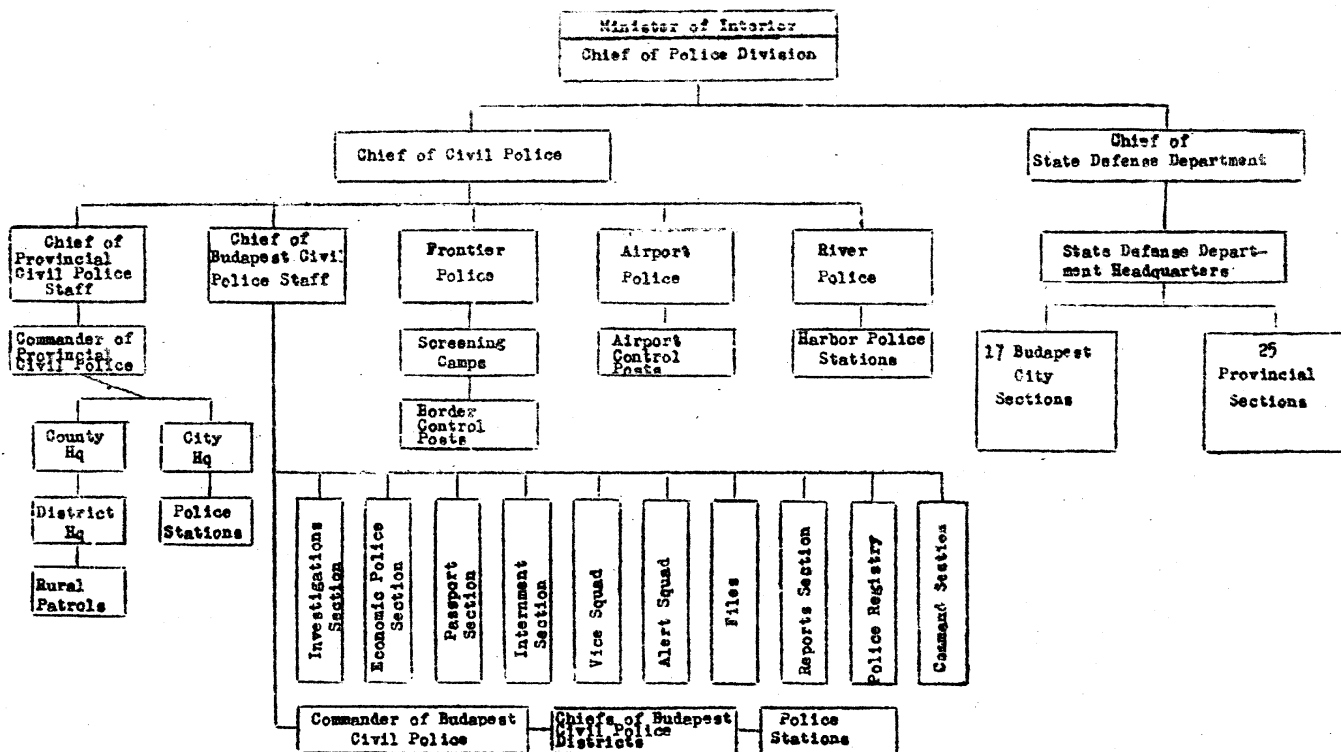
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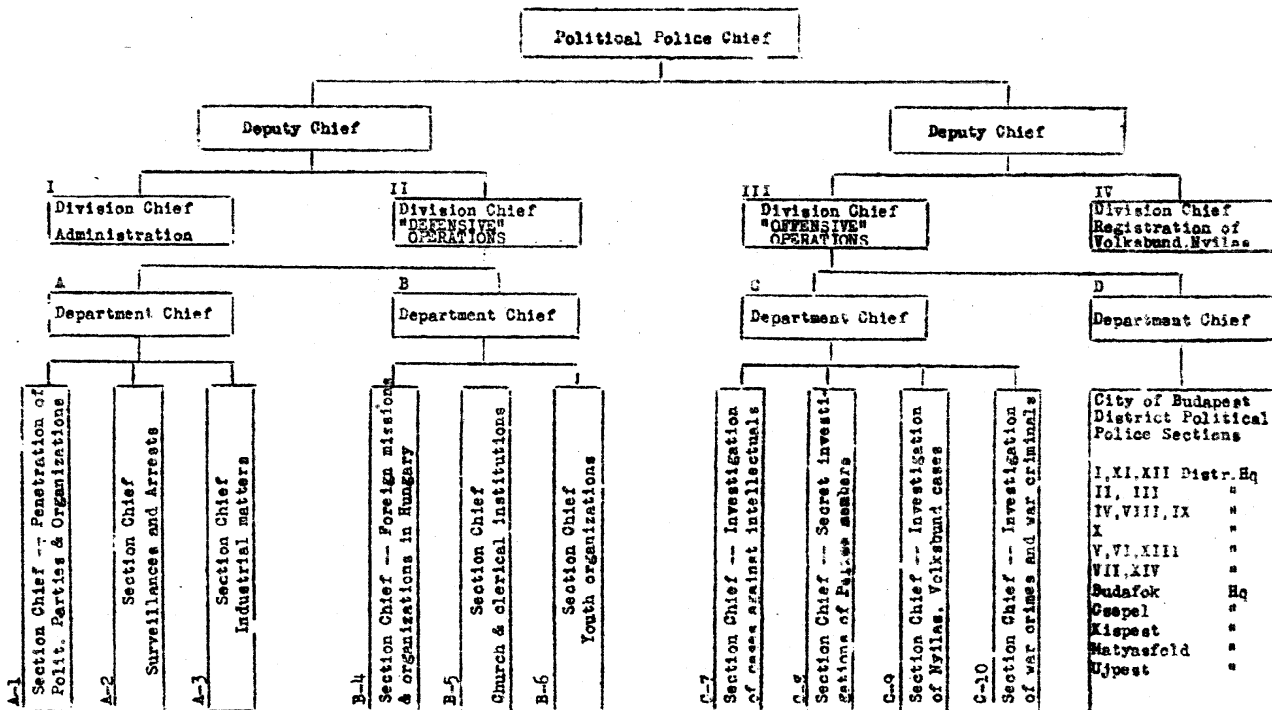
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 HUNGARIAN POLICE SYSTEM AS OF SEPTEMBER 1947



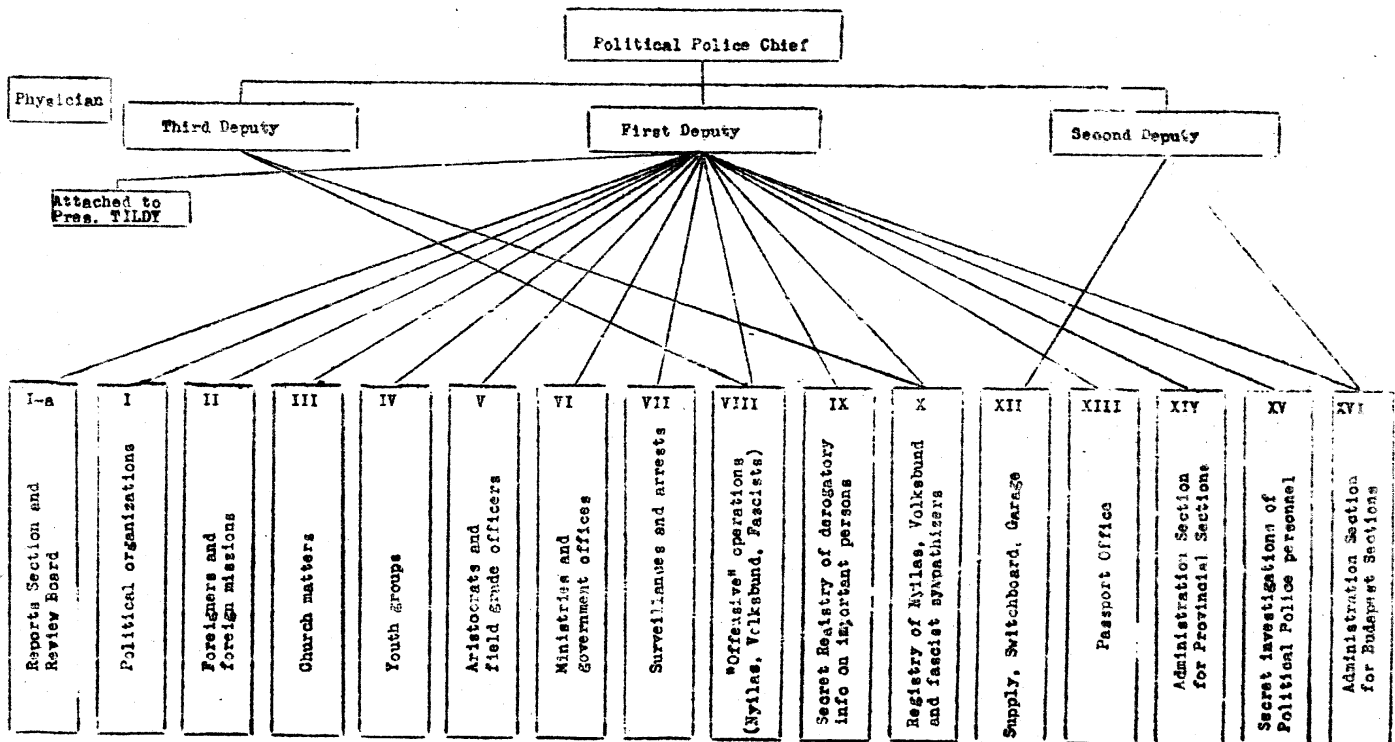
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 THIRD ORGANIZATIONAL STAGE OF THE HUNGARIAN POLITICAL POLICE
 September 1946



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